

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6 and 29-31.

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A method of performing channel hashing in a communication system, the method comprising steps of:

receiving through a common channel an overhead message including a CDMA channel list containing a plurality of frequency assignments;

reading first and second fields of the received overhead message, the first field containing information indicating whether at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support is included in the plurality of frequency assignments and the second field containing information indicating whether each frequency assignment of the plurality of frequency assignments allows packet data support;

formulating a first subset of channels based on the information of the first and second fields of the received overhead message; and

choosing as a service channel a frequency assignment of the first subset of channels.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the common channel is a forward common channel.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the forward common channel is one selected from the group consisting of a forward paging channel and a forward broadcast control channel.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the overhead message is an extended CDMA channel list message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first subset of channels is formulated by removing from the CDMA channel list all frequency assignments that do not allow packet data support, when the information of the first and second fields indicates packet data support.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising steps of:
determining whether a base station and a mobile station both provide special system support;

formulating a final subset of channels by removing from the first subset of channels all frequency assignments that do not allow the special system support, if it is determined that the base station and mobile station both provide the special system support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the frequency assignments of the final subset of channels.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether a base station and a mobile station both provide special system support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the frequency assignments of the first subset of channels, if it determined that one of the base station and the mobile station does not provide the special system support.

14. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether a base station and a mobile station both provide special system support, if the information of the first and second fields indicates no packet data support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the frequency assignments of the first subset of channels,

wherein the first subset of channels is formulated by removing from the frequency assignment list all frequency assignments that do not provide the special system support, if it is determined that the base station and mobile station both provide the special system support.

15. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether a base station and a mobile station both provide special system support, if the information of the first and second fields indicates no packet data support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the frequency assignment list, if it is determined that one of the base station and the mobile station does not provide the special system support.

16. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the communication system is a mobile station.

17. (Original) A method of performing channel hashing in a communication system, the method comprising steps of:

receiving an overhead message, sent through a forward common channel from a base station to a mobile station, the overhead message including at least one field and a CDMA channel list;

determining in the mobile station whether the base station and mobile station both provide packet data support, based on the at least one field of the received overhead message;

formulating a first subset of channels according to a result of said determining step; and

randomly selecting one frequency assignment from the first subset of channels.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the overhead message is an extended CDMA channel list message.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the first subset of channels is formulated by removing from the CDMA channel list all frequency assignments that do not allow packet data support, if the base station and mobile station are both determined to provide packet data support.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
determining in the mobile station whether the base station and mobile station both provide special system support;

formulating a final subset of channels by removing from the first subset of channels all frequency assignments that do not provide the special system support, if it is determined that the base station and mobile station both provide the special system support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the final subset of channels.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the final subset of channels is formulated by selecting the selected frequency assignments of the first subset of channels if it is determined that one of the base station and mobile station does not provide the special system support.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one field of the received overhead message includes at least one of a PDCH_SEL_INCL field having information indicating whether at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support is included in the received overhead message and a PDCH_HASH_IND field

having information indicating whether each frequency assignment of the CDMA channel list allows packet data support.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the PDCH_SEL_INCL field and the PDCH_HASH_IND field each have a length of one bit.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein, if the PDCH_SEL_INCL field is set to a first binary value, the mobile station determines that the base station provides packet data support and that the overhead message includes the at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support and wherein, if the PDCH_SEL_INCL field is set to a second binary value, the mobile station determines that the base station does not provide packet data support and that the overhead message does not include the at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising steps of:
determining in the mobile station whether the base station and mobile station both provide special system support, if it is determined that one of the base station and mobile station does not support the packet data channel;
formulating a final subset of channels by removing from the first subset of channels all frequency assignments that do not provide special system support, if the base station and mobile station both provide the special system support; and
choosing as a service channel a frequency assignment of the final subset of channels.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
determining in the mobile station whether the base station and mobile station both provide special system support, if it is determined that one of the base station and mobile station does not provide packet data support; and

randomly selecting one service frequency assignment from the CDMA channel list, if it is determined that one of the base station and mobile station does not provide the special system support.

27. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the forward common channel is one selected from the group consisting of a forward paging channel and a forward broadcast control channel.

28. (Currently amended) An overhead message comprising:
a first field containing information indicating whether a list of frequency assignments includes at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support; and
a second field containing information indicating whether each frequency assignment of the frequency assignment list allows packet data support, wherein the first field is a PDCH_SEL_INCL field and the second field is a PDCH_HASH_IND field, wherein the PDCH_SEL_INCL field and the PDCH_HASH_IND field each have a length of one bit, and wherein the PDCH_SEL_INCL field is set to a first binary value, if the frequency assignment list includes at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support, and is otherwise set to a second binary value.

29-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The overhead message of claim ~~30~~ 28, wherein the PDCH_HASH_IND field is set to a first binary value, if there is at least one frequency assignment allowing packet data support, and is otherwise set to a second binary value.

33. (Original) The overhead message of claim 28, further comprising:
a third field containing information indicating whether the at least one frequency assignment in the frequency assignment list provides special system support; and
a fourth field containing information indicating whether the each frequency assignment of the frequency assignment list provides the special system support.

34. (Original) The overhead message of claim 33, wherein the third field is an RC_QPCH_SEL_INCL field and the fourth field is an RC_QPCH_HASH_IND field.

35. (Original) The overhead message of claim 34, wherein the RC_QPCH_SEL_INCL field and the RC_QPCH_HASH_IND field each have a length of one bit.

36. (Original) The overhead message of claim 35, wherein the RC_QPCH_SEL_INCL field is set to a first binary value, if the at least one frequency assignment provides the special system support, and is otherwise set to a second binary value.

37. (Original) The overhead message of claim 35, wherein the RC_QPCH_HASH_IND field is set to a first binary value, if the each frequency assignment of the frequency assignment list provides the special system support, and is otherwise set to a second binary value.

38. (Original) The overhead message of claim 28, wherein the overhead message is an extended CDMA channel list message.